Domestic Girlfriend

KODANSHA COMICS

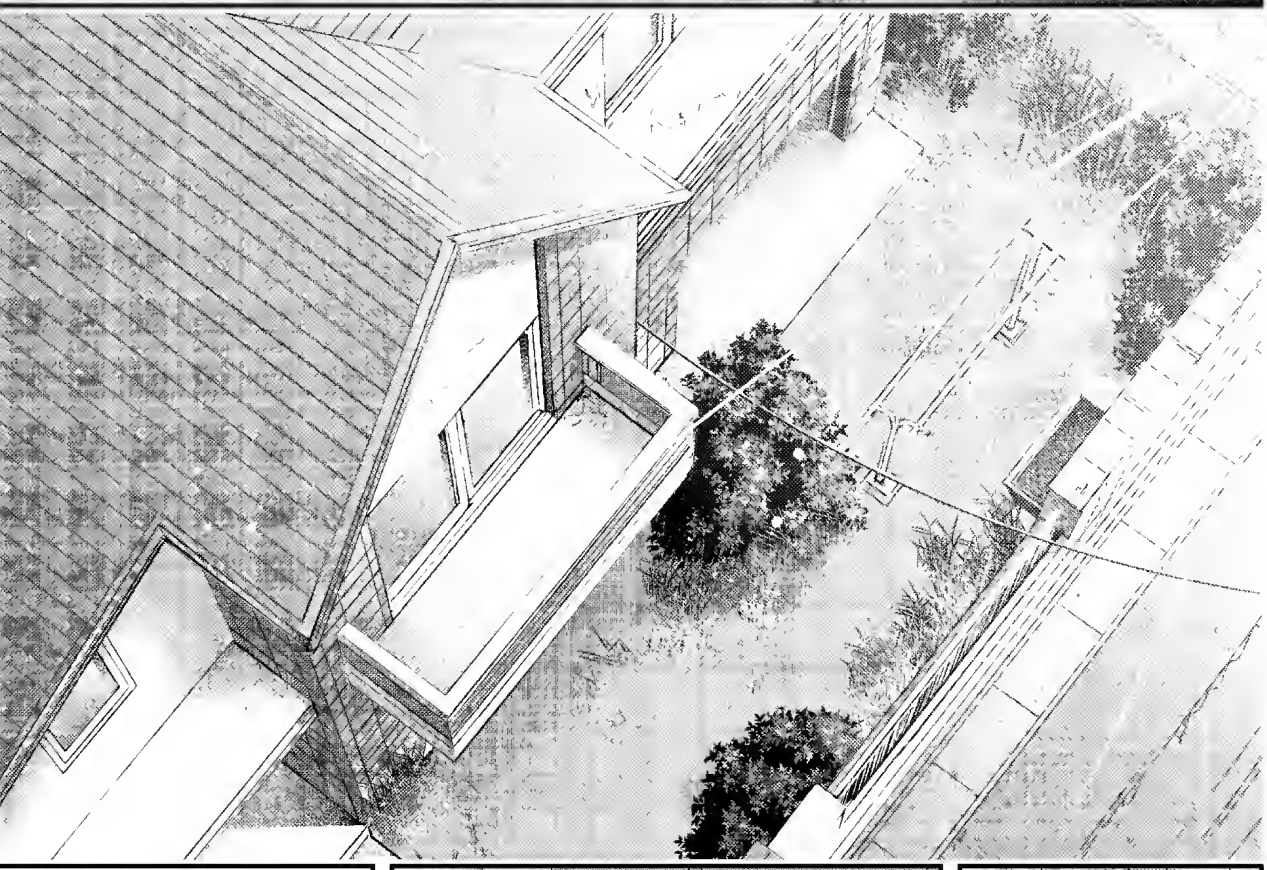
CHAPTER 176

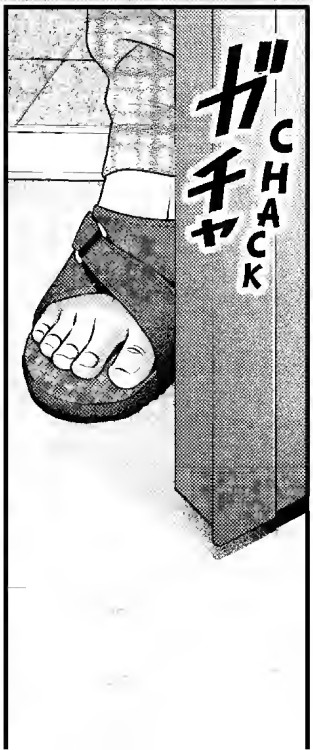
KEI SASUGA

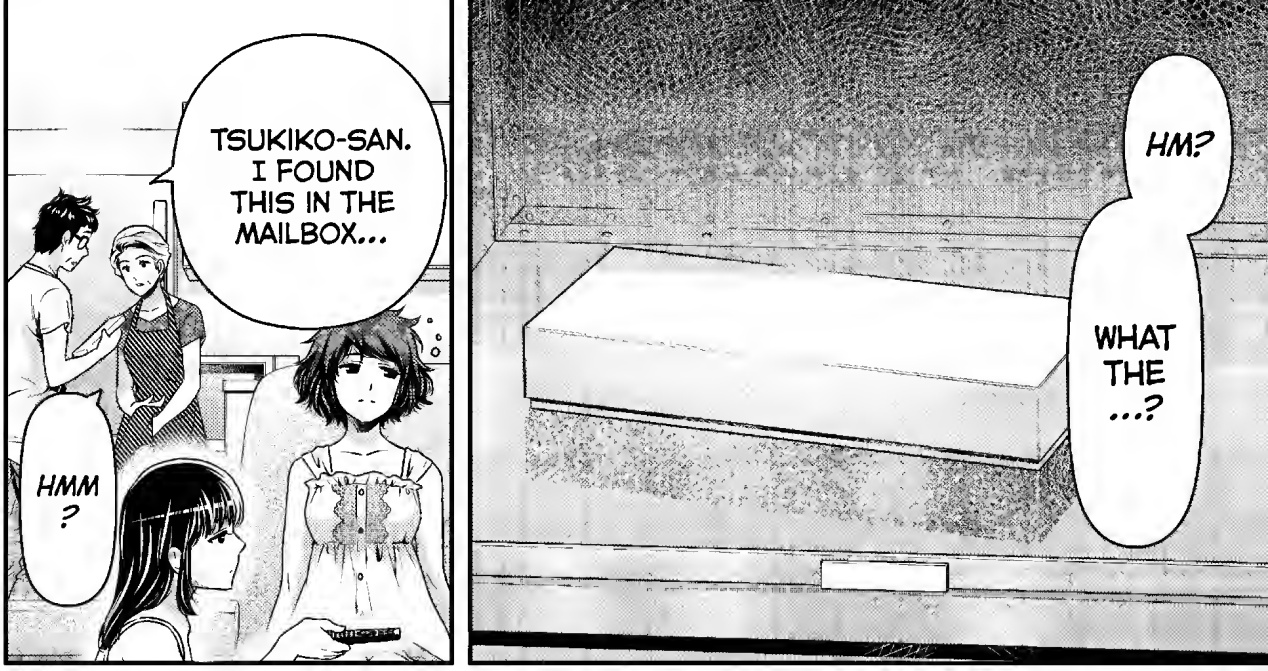
DOME X GIRL

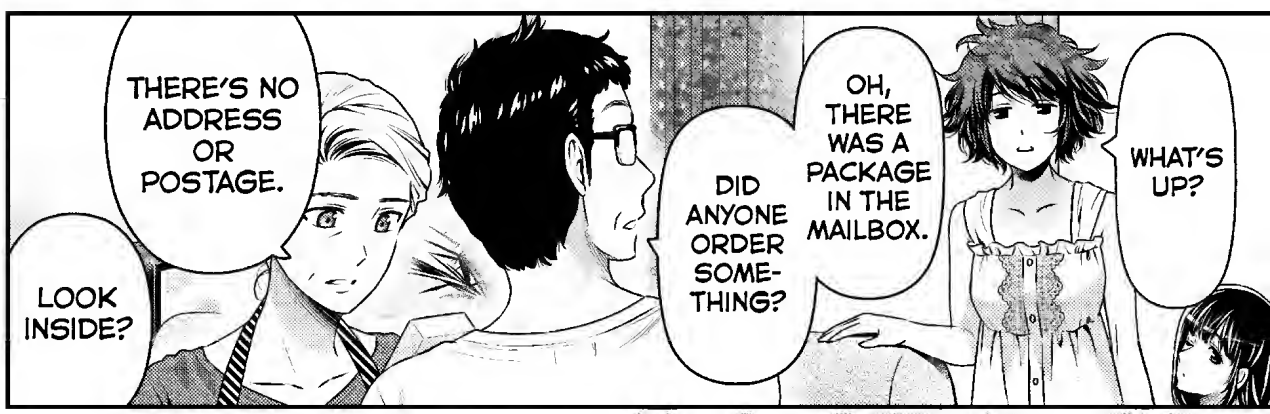
CHAPTER 176: CROSSROADS & REMINISCING

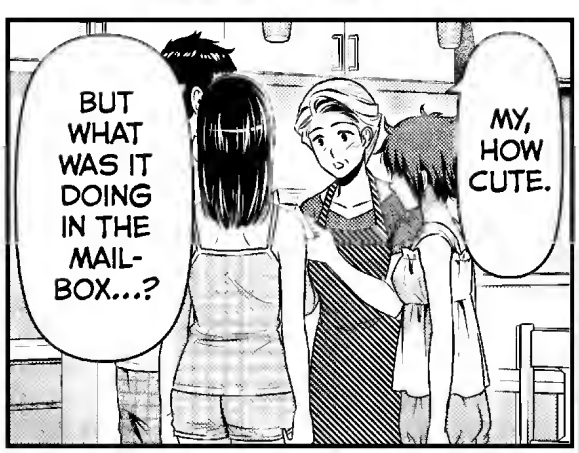
KEI SASUGA






TSUKIKO-SAN. I FOUND THIS IN THE MAILBOX...
HMM?
HM?
WHAT THE ...?


THERE'S NO ADDRESS OR POSTAGE.
LOOK INSIDE?
DID ANYONE ORDER SOME-THING?
OH, THERE WAS A PACKAGE IN THE MAILBOX.
WHAT'S UP?


BUT WHAT WAS IT DOING IN THE MAIL-BOX...?
MY, HOW CUTE.

A NECK-LACE?

I'M TAKING OFF.
HAVE A GOOD DAY, DEAR.
HUH?
DON'T YOU USUALLY GO IN A LITTLE LATER?
YEAH, BUT I WANNA PUT MORE TIME INTO PREPPING TODAY'S MENU.
HINA-NEE.
...
HEY.
LET'S WALK TOGETHER.
DID YOU ...
...RECOG-NIZE THAT NECKLACE, HINA-NEE?

YOU CAN TALK TO US ABOUT ANY-THING.
IF YOU'RE EVER WORRIED, RUI AND I ARE HERE FOR YOU.
YOU LOOKED KINDA SHOCKED WHEN MOM OPENED THE BOX.
...
WEIRD, HUH?
MAYBE SOMEONE GOT THE WRONG HOUSE?
BUT IT WASN'T THE SAME ONE AT ALL.
NO.
FOR A SEC, I THOUGHT IT LOOKED LIKE A NECKLACE I USED TO HAVE.

LEMME GIVE YOU MY HONEST FIRST IMPRESSION.

I READ YOUR NEW PIECE.

FIRST LITERATURE DEPARTMENT

OH. SURE, THANKS. I'LL HAVE TEA...

SORRY FOR THE WAIT. WANT SOMETHING TO DRINK?

...BUT YOU REALLY DEPICTED THE MAIN CHARACTER'S SENSE OF ALIENATION VERY WELL. I LIKED THE STORY'S POIGNANT TONE, TOO.

I THOUGHT SAME-SEX ROMANCE WAS A DELICATE TOPIC TO TACKLE...

THANKS A LOT!

SERIOUSLY?! THANK GOD!

THIS OUGHTA MAKE IT THROUGH THE PUBLICATION MEETING NO PROBLEM!

IT WAS REALLY GOOD!

THIS PIECE WILL PROBABLY MAKE IT INTO THE MAGAZINE, BUT...

YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER WITH EACH ENTRY.

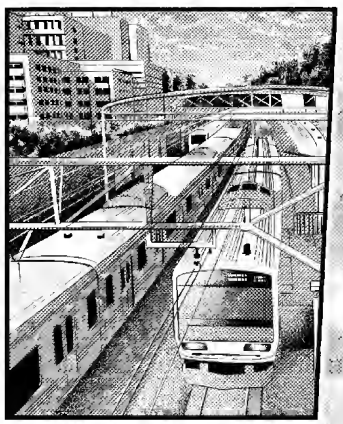
I FIGURED NOW MIGHT BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO BRING IT UP.
FUJII-KUN ...
OH, SOR-RY.
SOME-THING'S BEEN ON MY MIND FOR A WHILE.
HM?
TSU-TAYA-SAN?
...
WANNA TRY PUTTING OUT A BOOK?
BUT YOU'VE GOT YOUR LITERARY AWARD, AND YOU'VE BUILD UP AN AMPLE NUMBER OF SHORT STORIES. I THINK IT'S A GOOD TIME TO GIVE IT A SHOT.
OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE TO MEET WITH THE SALES DEPARTMENT BEFORE ANYTHING'S FINALIZED,
A BOOK?!
BOOK...? B.O.O.K.?
THAT'S RIGHT. AN HONEST-TO-GOD PRINTED NOVEL.
STAY WITH ME NOW.
DIRT GREAT WORK

WHAT DO I THINK?

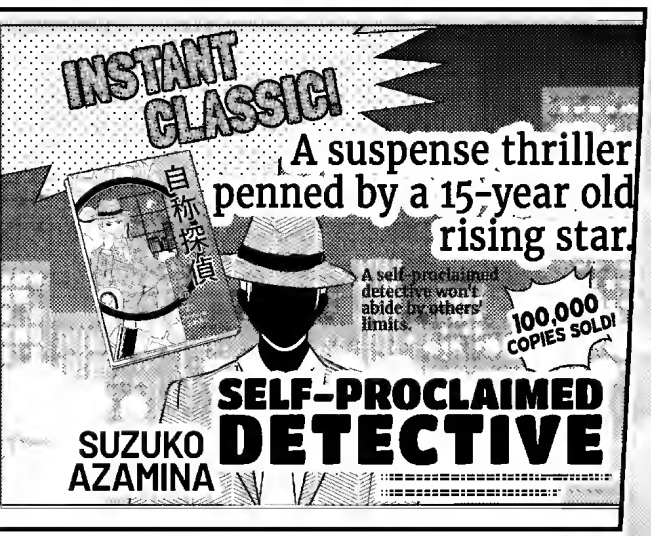
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?

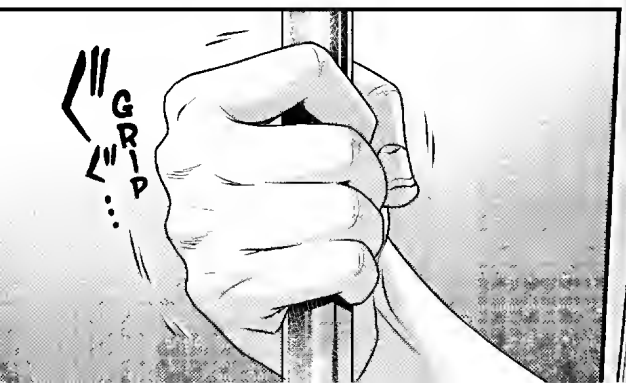
WE COULD MAKE IT A SHORT STORY ANTHOLOGY AND TOSS IN A NUMBER OF NEW PIECES.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



I THINK IT'S GREAT! I'LL DO MY BEST!


INSTANT CLASSIC!
A suspense thriller penned by a 15-year old rising star.
自称探偵
A self-proclaimed detective won't abide by others' limits.
100,000 COPIES SOLD!
SELF-PROCLAIMED DETECTIVE
SUZUKO AZAMINA

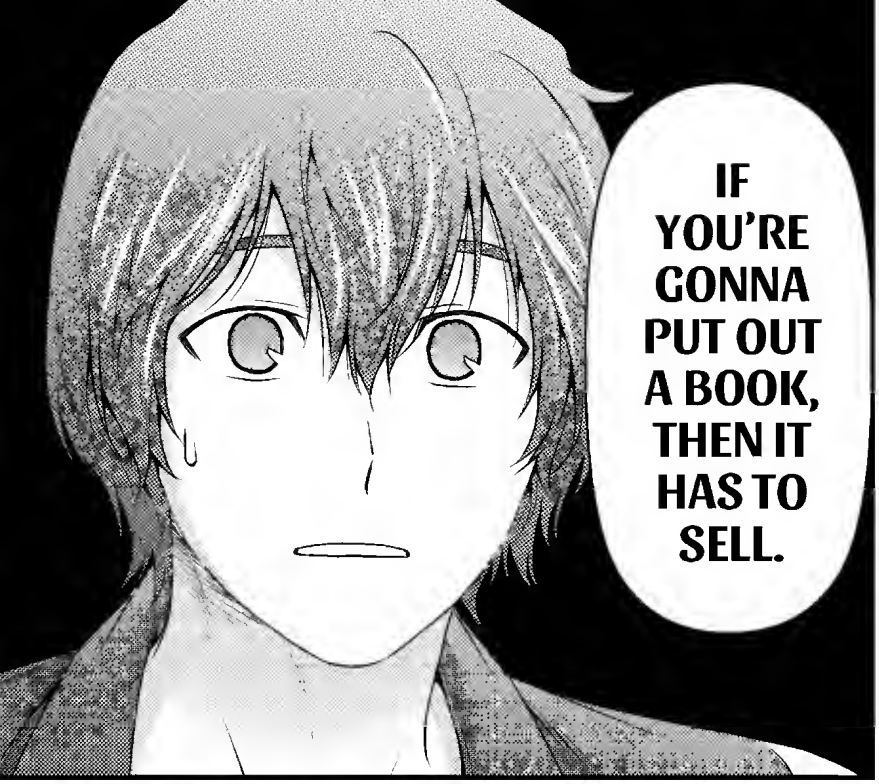


SIGN: KINOMORIYA BOOK STORE
紀伊森屋書店

月の器
松木賞受賞!!
松木賞受賞!!
IQ48
村下冬樹
甘い罠
The Dark Heart Called Pandora
MAKING ITS WAY TO THE SILVER SCREEN!
このミステリーがスゴイ
花火
NOW IN STOCK
Second edition [BLACK]
15-yr. Old Genius
Suzuko Azamina SELF-PROCLAIMED DETECTIVE
NEW BOOK
They got us! This one's a masterpiece!
教室
戸田莫子
私とあなた
今年ナンバーワンの珠玉作
自称探偵
ハンドラの学校
筒井篤郎
彷徨う
ミステリーの金字塔

IF I PUT OUT A BOOK...
...IT'LL WIND UP ON THIS TABLE, TOO, HUH?

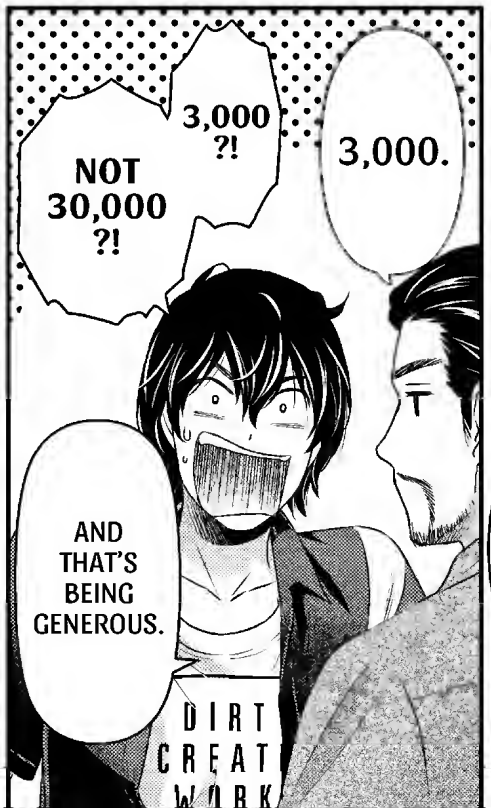
NOW IN STOCK!
Second edition [BLACK]
15-yr. Old Genius
Suzuko Azamina SELF-PROCLAIMED DETECTIVE
WHOA...
EVEN THIS STORE'S CARRYING IT.


IF YOU'RE GONNA PUT OUT A BOOK, THEN IT HAS TO SELL.

HAPPY?
WELL, YEAH!
GREAT.
NOW, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT.
WHAT'S THAT?

GOOD.
I UNDER-STAND...
...RIGHT.

THAT SAID, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TRICKS TO SELLING MORE BOOKS.
IN YOUR CASE, YOU'VE GOT THE TITLE OF "LITERARY AWARD WINNER" AT YOUR DISPOSAL.
LITERARY AWARD WINNER
TITLE...


3,000.
3,000 ?!
NOT 30,000 ?!
AND THAT'S BEING GENEROUS.
DIRT CREAT WORK

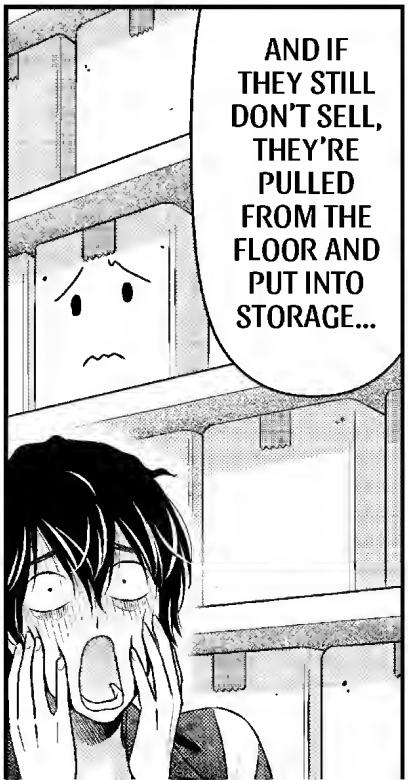
NEW BOOKS THAT SELL OVER 100,000 COPIES ARE CONSIDERED A HIT.
500,000 IS A MAJOR HIT. OVER ONE MIL-LION, AND IT'S A BEST-SELLER.
KNOW HOW MANY COPIES MOST NAMELESS AUTHORS MANAGE TO SELL?
Bestseller
20,000 copies sold!

AT THAT POINT, YOU'LL BE COMPETING AGAINST KIRIYA-KUN AND TOGEN-SENSEI FOR SALES, IN A SENSE.
MY GREATEST ALLIES TURN INTO MY MOST FEARSOME FOES...
THEY'RE SET UP SO THE COVERS ARE EASY TO SEE, RIGHT?
ドキ ドキ
THUMP THUMP
AND BOOKS THAT MAKE IT TO STORES ...
...ARE MOSTLY SOLD ON DISPLAY TABLES AT FIRST.

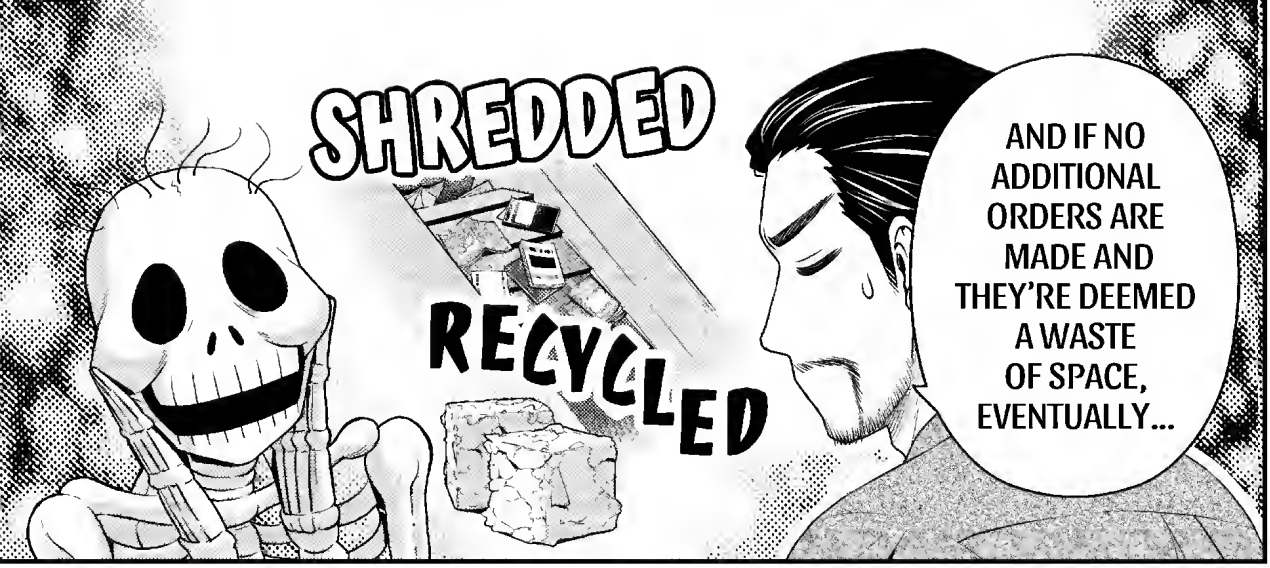
A WEEK?!
...YOUR BOOK COULD BE TAKEN OFF AFTER A WEEK AT THE EARLIEST.

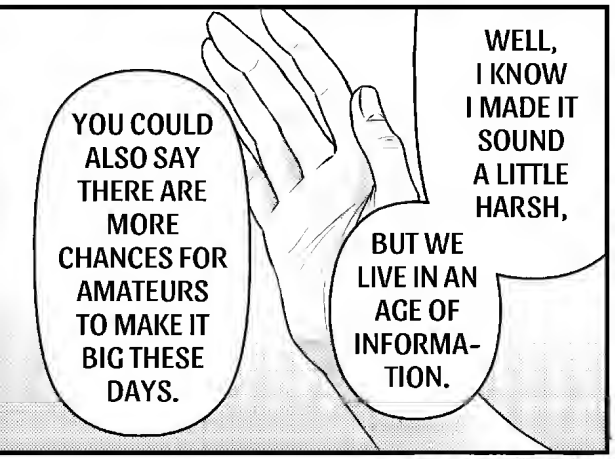
AS MORE AND MORE BOOKS COME OUT,
UNLESS YOU SELL ENOUGH COPIES TO KEEP YOUR SPOT ON THE TABLE...
HOWEVER, DISPLAY TABLES ARE THE CENTER-PIECE OF ANY BOOK-STORE.

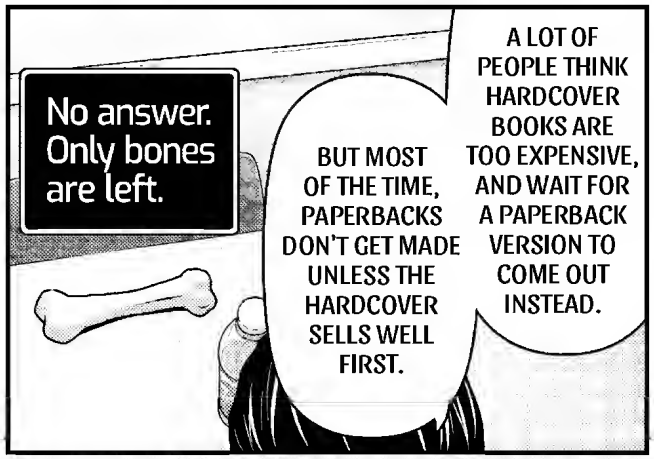
...OR SENT BACK TO THE PUB-LISHER.


AND IF THEY STILL DON'T SELL, THEY'RE PULLED FROM THE FLOOR AND PUT INTO STORAGE...

THEN THEY'RE MOVED BACK TO THE SHELVES, WHERE THEY'RE LINED UP BY AUTHOR.
NOT EXACTLY CONSPIC-UOUS...
ハ 行
マ


SHREDDED
RECYCLED
AND IF NO ADDITIONAL ORDERS ARE MADE AND THEY'RE DEEMED A WASTE OF SPACE, EVENTUALLY...


YOU COULD ALSO SAY THERE ARE MORE CHANCES FOR AMATEURS TO MAKE IT BIG THESE DAYS.
WELL, I KNOW I MADE IT SOUND A LITTLE HARSH,
BUT WE LIVE IN AN AGE OF INFORMA-TION.


No answer. Only bones are left.
BUT MOST OF THE TIME, PAPERBACKS DON'T GET MADE UNLESS THE HARDCOVER SELLS WELL FIRST.
A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK HARDCOVER BOOKS ARE TOO EXPENSIVE, AND WAIT FOR A PAPERBACK VERSION TO COME OUT INSTEAD.

HP 5
...
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...
THE REASON PEOPLE CAN WRITE A WEB NOVEL FOR FUN AND THEN SEE IT GET A MILLION HITS AND EVEN A MOVIE DEAL...
...IS THAT NETWORK WE HAVE NOW.
WORD WILL GET AROUND, EITHER THROUGH BOOKSTORE PROMOTIONS OR SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES.
IF YOU WRITE A GOOD BOOK THAT CONNECTS WITH PEOPLE,

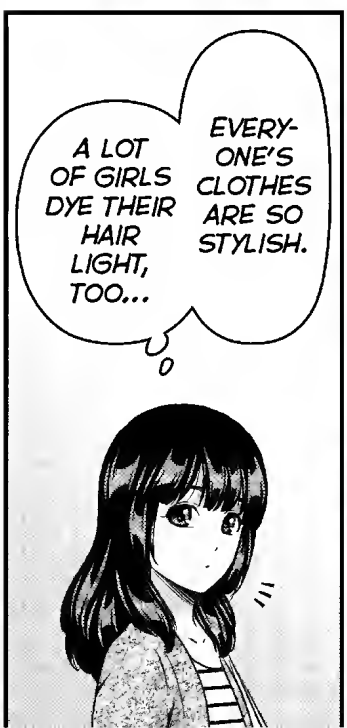
LET'S MAKE A HIT, FUJII!
OKAY!
I'M SUGGESTING YOU PUT OUT A BOOK BECAUSE I BELIEVE YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES!
...IF YOU WRITE SOMETHING AMAZING, PEOPLE WILL KNOW ABOUT IT!
WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE SURE MINE DOESN'T GET LOST IN THE PILE?
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE EVERY AMAZING BOOK GETS THE ATTENTION IT DE-SERVES.
TSUTAYA-SAN SAID IT'S THE QUALITY THAT MATTERS,
うーーーん
HMMMM
EASIER SAID THAN DONE.
NOW THAT I LOOK AT THIS OCEAN OF BOOKS...
...THE PRES-SURE'S REALLY STARTING TO SINK IN.

ASHI-HARA-SAN?!
ER... HUH?!
HM?
AH!
FUJII-KUN?!
OH, WOW! LONG TIME NO SEE! HOW ARE YOU?!
GREAT!
HUH? OH...
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE THINK-ING PRETTY HARD ABOUT SOMETHING. WHAT'S UP?
I WANTED TO GET SOME IDEAS FOR POP DISPLAYS FOR BOOKS.
I'M WORKING AT A BOOK-STORE PART-TIME.
HUH. COOL.
BUT Y'KNOW ...
I GOTTA SAY...

YOU SEEM KINDA... DIFFERENT, ASHIHARA-SAN.
YOU TOTALLY LOOK LIKE A COLLEGE GIRL NOW.

REALLY ?!

I'M GLAD IT'S WORK-ING.
I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY IMAGE A BIT LATELY.
OH, SOR-RY...

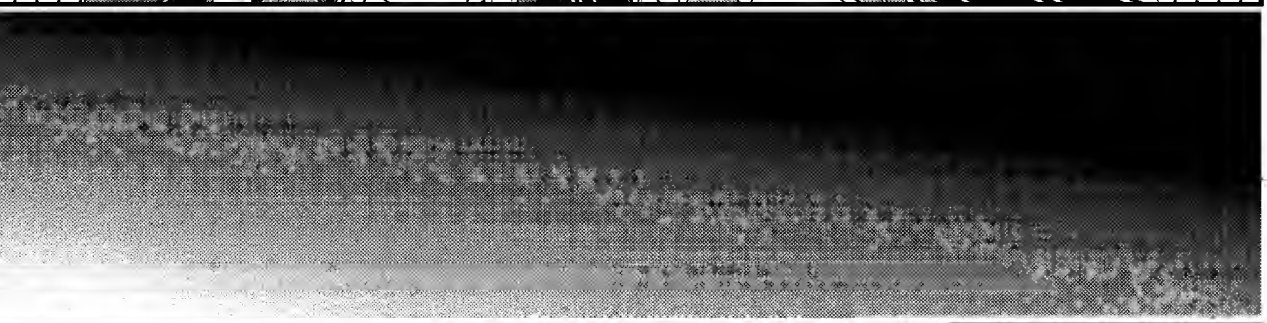

EVERY-ONE'S CLOTHES ARE SO STYLISH.
A LOT OF GIRLS DYE THEIR HAIR LIGHT, TOO...

IT'S JUST, EVERYONE LOOKS SO FASHIONABLE IN COLLEGE, YOU KNOW?
あHAはHAはHA?
YOU'RE KIDDING!

OH, GOD...
I LOOK LIKE SUCH A KID!
SO, I GOT KINDA SELF-CONSCIOUS ...
...AND ASKED KASHIWABARA-SAN TO SCHOOL ME ON MAKEUP AND FASHION.
LEAVE IT TO ME!
AH, YEAH. MOMO'S DEFINITELY THE EXPERT.
AND NOW THAT I'M OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL,
THERE'S ALWAYS A CHANCE I COULD RUN INTO KIRIYA-SENSEI ON THE STREET AND WE COULD HIT IT OFF, RIGHT? SO, I WANT TO LOOK MY BEST!
GOTCHA. I'M GUESSING THAT WAS A BIG PART OF IT.
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, FUJII-KUN?
WORK, SCHOOL, THE USUAL. I'M GETTING BY ALL RIGHT.
HOW'S YOUR WRITING GOING?
OH...
ACTUALLY, IF EVERYTHING GOES WELL,
I MIGHT BE RELEASING A BOOK SOMETIME IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

WHAT?! YOU'RE RELEASING A BOOK, FUJII-KUN?!
WAIT, I JUST SAID I MIGHT...
NO WAY! I'LL DEFINITELY BY A COPY!
THIS IS BIG NEWS!
タス TAP
タ TAP
タス TAP
WHAAAAT?!
ピロリ〜ン BA-DING
Whoa!
NOBODY CAN DEFEAT ME
must be comfortable
HUH ?!
GET THIS, SHIBASAKI-KUN!

KASHIWABARA-SAN SAID WE SHOULD GET TOGETHER AND CELEBRATE!
IT'S NOT EVEN A SURE THING YET!



SUMMER BREAK!
WHITE CLOUDS!
CRASHING WAVES!
I'D LIKE TO PERSONALLY THANK EVERYONE FOR TAKING TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY SCHED-ULES TO BE HERE TODAY.
NOW, IN HONOR OF NATSUO-KUN'S FIRST BOOK...

...LET'S PARTY!
YOU GUYS JUST WANTED AN EXCUSE TO HANG OUT, DIDN'T YOU?!